[19th January 1949

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know whether the purchase of the vessel was made after consulting qualified persons? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As far as I know, the vessel was purchased from the disposal of the surplus war materials in the Bombay Port, and it was duly inspected and thought worthy of being purchased."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know whether the Government consulted any qualified person as to whether the vessel would serve the purpose for which it was intended? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the vessel now used for the purpose for which it was purchased? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not now used."

Ration shops in Chingleput.

* 171 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued orders to the Collector of Chingleput district to give ration shops to the old ration shop-keepers?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No. Collectors have been instructed to see that only such of the old ration shop-keepers who had a clean record are appointed as ration shop-keepers and that the remaining vacancies are filled in by new men (not necessarily those who were in the trade before) with the necessary qualification and who can be trusted to be honest."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that some of the ration shop-keepers who misbehaved during the former control days have now been allowed to open ration shops? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the hon. Member has information to that effect and if he will pass it on to me, I shall make enquiries."

Revision of bus-fares in the Madras City.

* 172 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Transport Advisory Board, at its meeting on the 28th October 1948, decided to revise bus-fares on Government Transport buses in the Madras City;

(*b*) if so, what the old and new fares are on the various routes;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the Bus Passengers' Association walked out of the meeting in protest;